

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all Claims (24-51), without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, and enter new Claims 52-65.

1-51 (Cancelled)

52. (New) An isolated protein produced by expression from a first nucleic acid sequence within a nucleic acid molecule characterized by:

(a) said first nucleic acid sequence comprising a means for encoding a *Dermatophagoides farinae* mapB protein, wherein said encoded *Dermatophagoides farinae* map B protein binds an antibody produced against a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15; and

(b) a second nucleic acid sequence operatively linked to said first nucleic acid sequence, wherein said second nucleic acid sequence constitutes a means for promoting expression of said first sequence.

53. (New) The isolated protein of Claim 52, wherein said protein comprises an amino acid sequence at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:21.

54. (New) The isolated protein of Claim 52, wherein said protein comprises the amino acid sequence or SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:21.

55. (New) The isolated protein of Claim 52, wherein said protein consists of the amino acid sequence or SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:21.

56. (New) An isolated protein encoded by a polynucleotide sequence of at least 150 nucleotides in length, wherein said polynucleotide sequence of at least 150 nucleotides in length hybridizes in a solution comprising 1X SSC and 0% formamide at a temperature of about 50° C to a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:19 and SEQ ID NO:22, wherein said isolated protein binds an antibody produced against a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

57. (New) The isolated protein of Claim 56, wherein said protein is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence at least about 95% identical to a nucleic acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:17 or SEQ ID NO:20.

58. (New) The isolated protein of Claim 56, wherein said protein is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence comprising a sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:17 or SEQ ID NO:20.

59. (New) The isolated protein of Claim 56, wherein said protein is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:17 or SEQ ID NO:20.

60. (New) An isolated protein selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an isolated protein comprising an at least 30 contiguous amino acid region identical in sequence to an at least 30 amino acid region from SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:21; and
- (b) an isolated protein comprising an amino acid sequence at least about 90% identical to a sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:21,

wherein said isolated protein of (a) or (b) binds an antibody produced against a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

61. (New) The isolated protein of Claim 60, wherein said isolated protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:21.

62. (New) The isolated protein of Claim 60, wherein said isolated protein consists of an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:18 or SEQ ID NO:21.

63. (New) The isolated protein of Claim 60, wherein said protein comprises an epitope having at least one identifying characteristic selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) said epitope is resistant to β -elimination of peptides;
- (b) said epitope is resistant to Proteinase-K digestion; and
- (c) said epitope is reactive to a test designed to detect glycosylated proteins,

wherein said epitope binds to an IgE selected from the group consisting of canine IgE from dogs allergic to mites and feline IgE from cats allergic to mites.

64. (New) A kit for testing if an animal is susceptible to or has an allergic response to a mite, said kit comprising the isolated protein of Claim 60.

65. (New) A therapeutic composition for treating an allergic response to a mite comprising the isolated protein of Claim 60.